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THE CLAW

october 2019

AN EHS LEGEND

page 6

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

First quarter is over, much to the relief of some students, and the dismay of others. The freshmen are acclimated to high school life, the sophomores are just getting jaded, the juniors are exhausted by now and the seniors are stressed about the future. It's been a successful quarter.

And with so much having happened over these past few months, we had our work cut out for us this issue. But I think we managed.

On pages 6-9 Co-Editor-in-Chief Jacqueline Glenn and I explore why so many students, faculty and administrators find Tammy Manley to be one of the most recognizable, friendly faces here at EHS.

With so many amazing athletics at EHS, it's hard to pick just one. But on pages 12-13 Staff Writer Hannah Thompson brings two of them together as she examines a concerted effort of many EHS athletes: the sports-team-fueled activism helping our community.

On page 17 Staff Writer Sydney Hershberger shifts the focus to Netflix and their new film "Tall Girl." I think it's safe to say that she wasn't the biggest (or tallest in this case) fan.

And finally, in our infamous Views section, on page 21 staff writer Jack Pifer takes a closer look at U.S. climate policy and shares his view on President Trump's actions in that affair as a whole.

The year is only just beginning, so go out there and make this year the best year ever. If we really want to live up to the moniker of "premier high school in the state of Illinois," then we need to do bett than each class before us. That's a goal th I hope every future EHS class will hold, and one that we can achieve this year, wi enough pluck.

Ryan Stewart
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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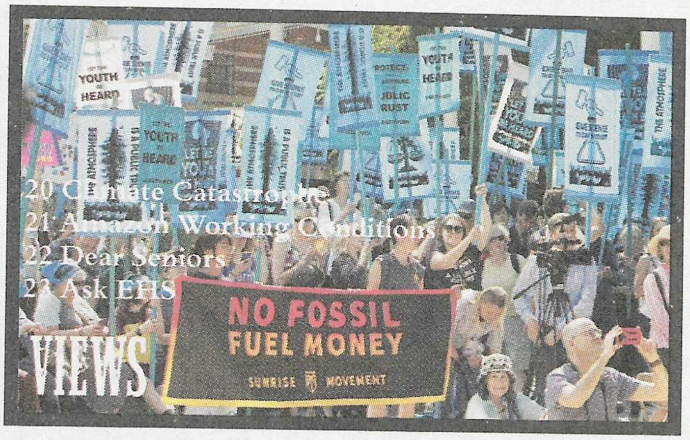

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We appreciate letters to the editor, so long as the topics discussed remain school appropriate. These letters may not be any longer than 200 words, and can be sent to letterstotheclaw@gmail.com or brought to room A113 before or after school. We reserve the right to reject any letters for any reason, including inappropriateness, lack of space, etc. We are not required to give an explanation for rejected letters.

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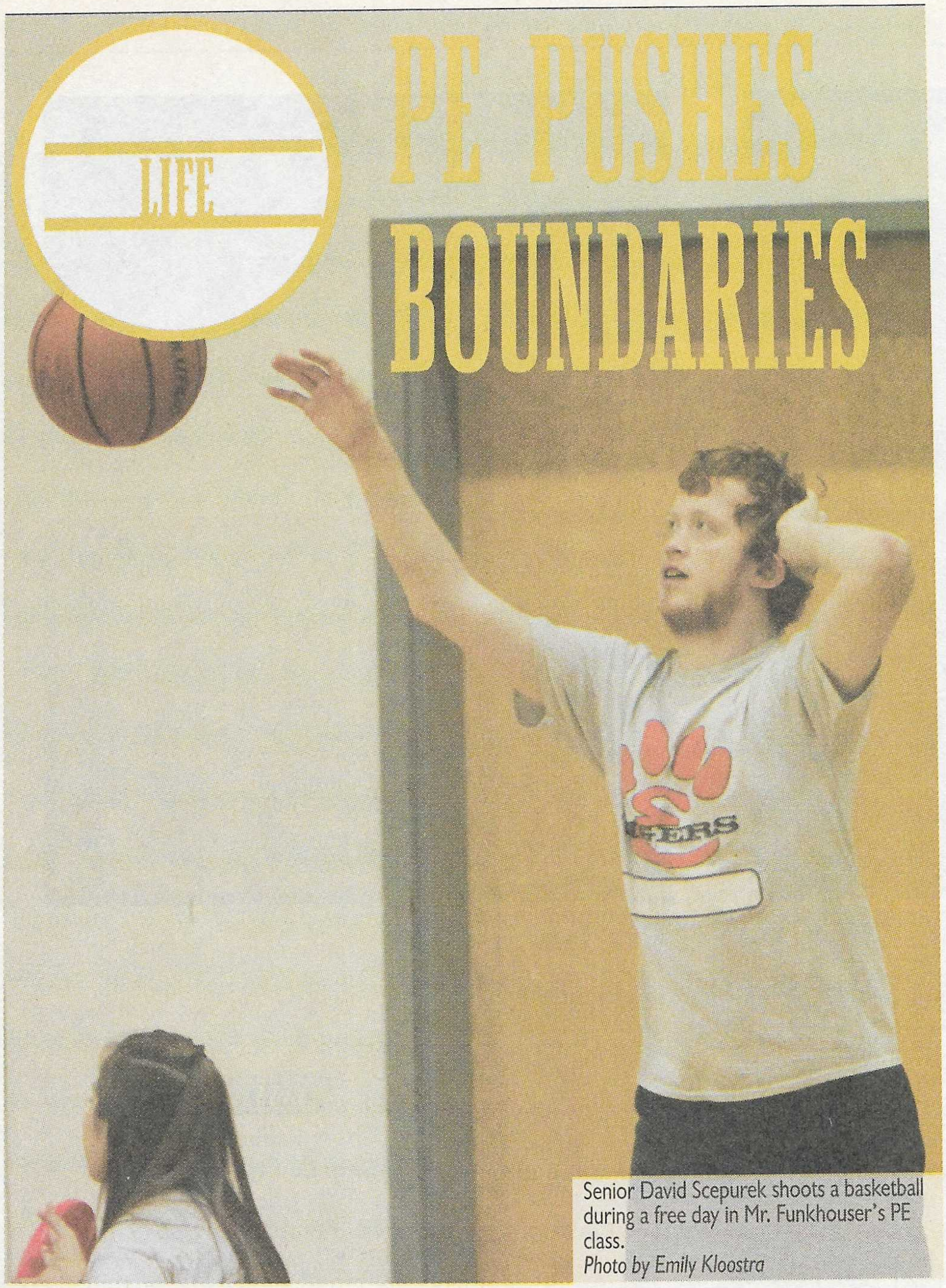


Senior David Scepurek shoots a basketball during a free day in Mr. Funkhouser's PE class.
Photo by Emily Kloostra

by Cassi Reaka, Life Editor

Laughter and music fills the C gym as students dressed in grey and orange shirts and black shorts begin their physical education (PE) class. Frisbees are lightly tossed by some and intensely thrown by others, but smiles are present on all of the students' faces.

Adaptive PE allows for students of all abilities and skill levels to interact over the course of the school year. The class lets students take classes and form friendships with people that they otherwise wouldn't.

In the class, peer advocates take PE with students in the Functional Life Skills (FLS) program. The peers help the students to participate in the games and activities that take place during the class and connect with the students.

"The peer advocates learn to work with various students and they grow themselves," Tim Funkhouser, the class's teacher, said. "My favorite part of the class is the interactions amongst the students and seeing them participate in various activities."

The class itself, although it offers a unique opportunity, is not so different from a regular PE class, according to junior Allie Adams, who took adaptive PE her sophomore year.

"We still do all the same activities and units as the other classes, we just have to help the students a bit more with certain things," Adams said.

Sophomore Briana Cooper took the class her freshman year and is taking it again this year. Cooper said that she chose to take the class because of her love of working with students in the FLS program.

"They are my friends," Cooper said. "Walking into the gym is my absolute favorite. They all come up to me and say 'Bree' and give me a hug. It just puts a smile on my face, even if I'm having a ba day."

Cooper believes the class benefits both the peer advocates and the students in the class.

"Students get to be in an inclusive environment," Cooper said. "They get t interact with kids their own age and mak friends outside of their classroom. Peers who take it get an amazing experience."

Sophomore Madelyn Goodwin, who took adaptive PE her freshman year, said the class allows for a more inclusive environment.

"It is a smaller group, which is less stressful for them, with a lot of social time," Goodwin said. "Everyone is included and has an equal chance. We were all very supportive to everyone. Cheering was always something we did the gym."

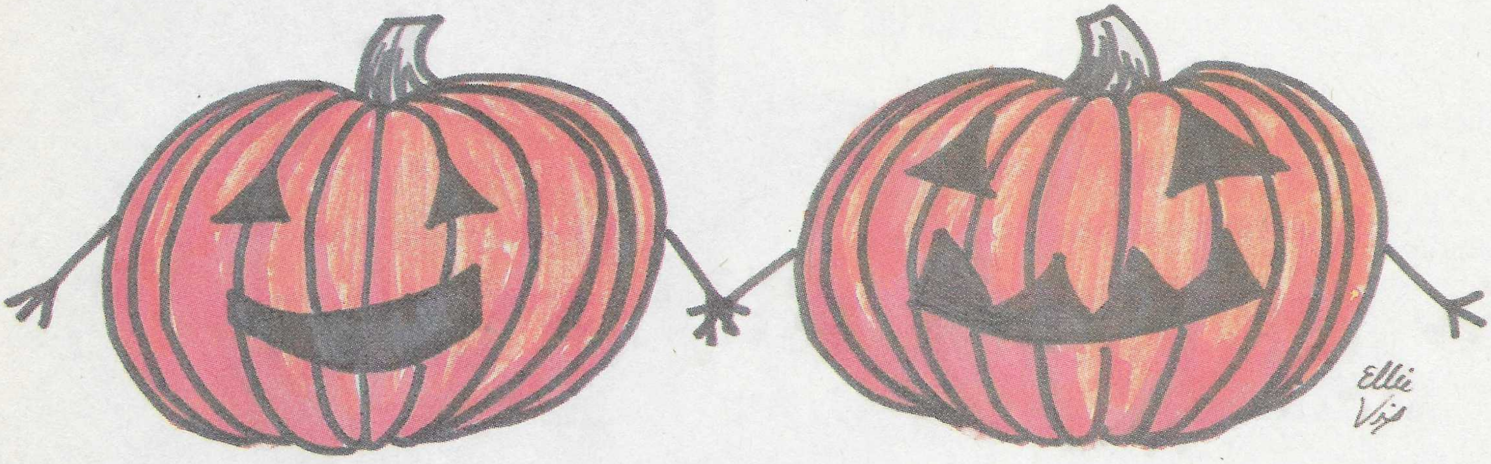
While the class can offer an invaluabl learning experience, sophomore Jenae Wright does not think the class is for everyone.

"I would definitely recommend takin [adaptive PE] to some students that have had Key Club experience or something Wright said. "It's a lot of fun, but I don think everyone should do it. It's for cert people with certain personalities."

For students who are comfortable and confident when working with FLS students, the class provides a fun way to fill the PE requirement, according to Goodwin.

"I learned so much," Goodwin said. "I learned patience and compassion. And most importantly, I made so many new friends and memories I will always remember."

CAULDRONS, CANDY, COSTUMES: EHS STUDENTS DRESS FOR THE DAY



by Katelyn Harris, Staff Writer

With Halloween quickly approaching, people are decorating houses, buying candy and picking costumes.

"This year, seven out of every 10 Americans will hand out candy, while half will decorate their homes or dress in costumes," according to National Geographic.

Everyone has a favorite part of Halloween, whether it's trick-or-treating, dressing up, going to the annual Halloween parade or even just going to a party and hanging out with friends.

Senior Noah Martinez and his girlfriend senior Ava Cruzan said they enjoy the dressing up aspect. This year they are dressing up as Xayah and Rakan from "League of Legends."

"They were a pretty unique addition to the game because they were the first and only characters to come out in a pair," Martinez said. "We both had played the game for a while so it just kind of made sense."

Martinez said they wear costumes to conventions frequently, so it's not any different when Halloween arrives.

Many other couples and friends are also dressing up together.

Junior Marlee Landry and her boyfriend senior Derek Smith said last year they dressed as Bugs Bunny and Lola from "Space Jam."

This year Landry and Smith are dressing up as Robin and Steve from the Netflix Original Series, "Stranger Things." Landry said they both really like the show so they decided to dress up as the characters.

> "I FEEL PRESSURED TO BE LIKE THIS PERFECT PERSON AND BE WHAT PEOPLE WANT ME TO BE EVERY DAY BUT WHEN IT'S HALLOWEEN, YOU CAN BE WHOEVER YOU WANT."

Sophomore Nova Saucier said she enjoys hanging out with her friends on Halloween and dresses up based on the theme of her friends' party.

Junior Jill Schollmeier agreed. "Halloween parties and hanging out with friends," are both activities she said likes.

This year Schollmeier and her friends are dressing up as each other.

"I can't remember exactly who said it, but one of us said it as a joke about swapping families and 'becoming each other,' so we decided later we should be each other [for Halloween]," Schollmeier said.

Students aren't the only ones that like dressing up, however.

EHS history teacher Keith Baker loves to dress up for Halloween. He said he used to go "all out" for Halloween.

"For the first eight years I woke up around 3:30 a.m. to melt latex in the crock pot," Mr. Baker said. "Once I had kids of my own, the investment changed."

This year he is going to dress up. He said he has many options to choose from. His choices are between Dipper Pines from "Gravity Falls," historical outfits or zombie makeup.

"I have a lot in storage," Mr. Baker said.

Some students also enjoy dressing up for Halloween because they can be anything they want for a night.

"I feel so pressured to be like this perfect person and be what people want me to be every day but when it's Halloween, you can be whoever you want," Saucier said.

Landry also thinks it's nice to dress up and be someone or something different for a night.

"No matter what age or race you are, you can temporarily be someone or something else," Landry said.

'LIKE MY SECOND MOM': EHS BONDS WITH CUSTODIAN

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Editor-in-Chief and Ryan Stewart, Co-Editor-in-Chief

One EHS employee greets lunch tables brimming with trash and friendly students alike with her signature positive attitude. Her familiar, warm grin embraces students and staff members every day.

Chances are, if you attend EHS, you've heard of or interacted with Tammy Manley, a custodian with whom many of the school's employees and students bond.

Since his freshman year, senior John Matthews said he has had a close friendship with Ms. Manley.

"Every time I see her, we talk about what's new in our lives or she always notices when something is wrong," Matthews said. "My favorite thing about [Ms. Manley] is how she can make anyone smile."

And because of that, Matthews said he is one among many at EHS who aspire to be like Ms. Manley.

"[Ms. Manley] is an inspiration to me," Matthews said. "She contributes in just about every way she can and is always happy to help."

Senior A.J. Scheffel, who chats daily with Ms. Manley during his lunch period, said that he views his connection with her as both parental and that of a friend. Like Matthews, he especially admires Ms. Manley's positivity.

"She's always super happy about stuff and she's always excited to see the children," Scheffel said.

Ms. Manley's motherly nature and advice seem to lift students' spirits, according to Scheffel.

"A couple of weeks ago, I had some personal stuff going on, and … we got to talking, and it kind of made me feel better," Scheffel said.

To senior Sabrina Copple, Ms. Manley is like her "second mother." She said that she and Ms. Manley talk "every single day," sometimes just about the day's events, and many times about deeper issues. According to Copple, Ms. Manley eagerly listens to her struggles, offering advice, support and empathy.

"Before my weekend starts on Friday, she'll ask me what I'm doing, and then on Monday, she'll ask me how my weekend was," Copple said. "She remembers everything."

Copple believes one instance in particular is a testament to Ms. Manley's compassion. During Copple's freshman year, she received negative feedback on an assignment, and it crushed her.

"MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT [MS. MANLEY] IS HOW SHE CAN MAKE ANYONE SMILE."

"I was feeling like crap the rest of the day," Copple said. "I was trying to keep myself together, because I beat myself up internally … I want my grades to be good. So I was just trying not to break down."

That day, when Ms. Manley began their lunch conversation by asking how Copple's day was going, Copple's stress compelled her to cry.

But Ms. Manley immediately offered her empathy and a listening ear, and Copple said she even hugged her for a "solid minute."

Copple said that moments like those illustrate Ms. Manley's greatest contribution to EHS.

"She helps promote the kind environment that students need and the support they need; she's somebody to look up to," Copple said.

Ms. Manley said that her interactions with students are the "best part" of her job.

"I'm nice to the kids," Ms. Manley said. "I just like the kids, so I talk to them, like a parent or sometimes better than or different than a parent, and being a parent, I connect with them."

Staff members, too, have noticed Ms. Manley's dedication to her job and to

Ms. Manley poses with senior Caleb Britton at her morning post, the bus drop-off, where she greets students arriving from the buses.
photo by Emily Kloostra

Ms. Manley hugs senior Sabrina Copple. "I get at least four hugs from her every day," Copple said.
photo by Emily Kloostra

everyone at the school.

"Tammy really runs the building," English teacher Heather Haskins said. "If you ever need anything, you can always call her and she will bend over backwards to get done whatever needs to be done for people. And that's not only for staff, but also for students."

English teacher Nicole Pontious also praised Ms. Manley for her devotion.

"She is such a compassionate co-worker. She takes pride in her work," Mrs. Pontious said. "She is someone I definitely look up to."

Social sciences teacher Sairee Knabe agreed that Ms. Manley is an inspiration.

"Even when she is exhausted and is super busy, if you ask her to do anything she will drop everything and help you out," Mrs. Knabe said. "And she doesn't make you ever feel like you are a bother to her."

Mrs. Knabe also noted that Ms. Manley's attitude affects those around her.

"She truly enjoys life and does not let little things get her down," Mrs. Knabe said. "She just keeps going. She's like our mom. We need her."

"SHE HELPS PROMOTE THE KIND ENVIRONMENT THAT STUDENTS NEED AND THE SUPPORT THEY NEED; SHE'S SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO."

Adminstators agree with the teachers that Ms. Manley is a positive force here at EHS, and one they are glad to have.

"She's always been one of those people that I look up to, especially if I come in and I'm not in the best of moods," Assiastant Principal Andrew Williams said. "She usually sets me right and puts me in a better mood."

Dr. Williams also said that Ms. Manley is an educator of students, and that her connection with students is special.

"Kids confide in her, kids trust her, because she is a very authentic person," Dr. Wiliams said. "She helps a lot of students here deal with emotional problems, or maybe not getting along with one another. She helps give good advice and guidance to the kids everyday."

Assistant Principal Paul Stuart agreed with Dr. Williams that Ms. Manley's impact on the students is special.

"The relationships she's able to build with the kids, is something inspiring and great to have in the building," Mr. Stuart said. "She's a great role model for a lot of different kids.

"I think for a lot of kids who might not be very successful here at school, she's someone to use as a role model."

The positive, kind approach for which students and coworkers applaud her is something Ms. Manley said she has adopted when dealing with her life, friends and everything else.

> **"YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DO SOMETIMES...EVEN IF IT'S JUST SAYING 'HI' IN THE MORNING."**

"You can't always have everything bring you down, because otherwise it sucks your whole day," Ms. Manley said. "So I try very hard to always be positive."

According to Copple, Matthews and Scheffel, Ms. Manley is like an EHS "icon," but she didn't realize that students view her that way.

"I think it's nice, because you don't think about what you do sometimes," Ms. Manley said. "Even if it's just saying 'hi' in the morning."

Ms. Manley standing with her signature smile.
photo by Emily Kloostra

Q & A

EHS custodian Tammy Manley discusses her days at EHS.

Q: How long have you been working here?

TM: 16 years. I started at Liberty as kitchen help, and then I was offered a job as a custodian here... At first I worked the night shift, which is 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Now, I get here at 4 a.m. and leave at 2 p.m.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

TM: There's not really a daily routine. There's always something different. During the day, it's just me and one other custodian.

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Geordan Patrylak, Jack Pifer and Zach Walters lead the pack at the Sept. 21 Edwardsville Invitational at SIUE.
photo by Grace McGinnesss

by Emily Kloostra, Staff Writer

With a range of runners on varsity, strong student leadership and a new approach to races, the EHS cross country team has race times falling and team spirit rising.

"I think we're doing pretty good," sophomore Jack Draper said. "We have a very strong varsity grouping with Jack Pifer and Zach Walters…and then juniors and sophomores the rest of the way down."

While the girls team is working hard, according to coach George Patrylak, the team is struggling with an injury to its number one runner, senior Abby Korak, and the graduation of varsity athletes.

However, the loss provides an opportunity for younger athletes to shine, Korak said.

"We lost a lot of seniors, but our younger athletes have worked hard to fill big shoes," she said.

Both freshman Riley Knoyle and sophomore Makenna Lueking have established themselves as top runners on the girls varsity team, according to coach Patrylak.

While returning athletes are good for a team, coach Patrylak also said that having the right leaders is essential in creating a strong team, and athletes have been providing that support.

"A lot of the seniors we have in place put a lot of emphasis on developing that culture and the sense of accountability for that athlete," he said.

Senior Kurt Brase hopes the work the team has put in will pay off in the postseason.

"All our races so far have been building a foundation so that we can make it to state… [and] perform well," Brase said.

Coach Patrylak said that the performances at state meets have not met expectations, but he is working to change that this year with a new strategy.

"The way we've attacked races in the past couple of years, we've kind of had a 'get to the front' mentality," coach Patrylak said, "but we've noticed when we've gotten to the big meets at the end of the year we tend to fall off a little bit."

The strategy calls for a more reserved start to races than normal, according to senior Muriel Bowen. By conserving energy during the first mile of the race, athletes have more energy to move forward during the latter miles.

"This strategy has been good," Bowen said. "I'm able to pass more people and have a harder effort on my last mile."

Junior Drew Law said that the approach also includes a focus on reducing individualism in the sport.

"This year we are putting extra emphasis on teamwork and working together throughout our races," he said. "Every time we come up on a teammate in a race, we… started putting a hand on their back and urging them to run with us, or just go a little bit faster."

That aspect has created a culture on the girls team that has allowed the team to grow, according to Bowen.

"We encourage our teammates and work together towards goal times," Bowen said.

Brase said the team used an extreme version of the strategy at the SIUE meet on Sept. 22, which helped to prepare runners for larger races.

"By starting slower and working our way up we performed very well and worked on running between packs like we would at bigger meets, like in the postseason," he said.

According to Brase, although there were only a couple EHS runners toward the front during the first mile of the race, five EHS runners placed in the top 15, with Pifer holding first.

"As the race continued, we moved up as a big group," Brase said. "It was a beautiful thing to see; so much orange and black moving together."

Coach Patrylak said the strategy has produced good results, including some personal records for athletes.

Moving forward, the teams are looking to place high at both regionals and sectionals. At state, the boys team set a goal of placing in the top 10, according to coach Patrylack. He also hopes that Korak will be able to run in the postseason.

"Hopefully we accomplish our goals, not just for ourselves," he said, "but for the school as well."

COLLEGES MAKE PLAYS ON JUSTIN JOHNSON JR.

by Jack Barker, Sports Editor

Justin Johnson Jr. keeps the ball close in the 42-14 win against Alton on Sept. 20.
photo by Mason Kane

If you've attended an EHS football game in the past three years, you've likely seen the newest edition of Division I quality talent pumped out by the program: Justin Johnson Jr., a 5-foot-11 junior running back, played varsity his freshman year, but said that the game is completely different for him now.

"Coming into my freshman and sophomore year I wasn't very experienced," Johnson said.

Having a more veteran point of view, Johnson says that the game is slowing down for him and that he has a better understanding of it. That's quite an impressive feat for someone who says he knows there's a "bounty on [his] head" every game he goes out there.

Johnson began landing on collegiate radars last December following his sophomore season and received his first letter.

Letters aren't the only way he is being recognized, though. Johnson has also attended multiple camps, whether it be the camp at Notre Dame that he chose to attend, or being invited to colleges like Stanford to showcase his talent.

"I feel like I play better knowing colleges are watching," Johnson said.

And they are. Colleges are legally allowed to begin contacting upperclassman students that they are recruiting at midnight on Sept.1 of each year, and many different schools around the nation began to reach out.

"That night [Aug. 31] I went to bed around 10 p.m. and I woke up the next morning to at least nine different colleges," Johnson said.

He also woke up to around 40 different notifications on his phone. He has now received official offers from five different schools including University of Illinois, Purdue and Illinois State.

His talent on the field isn't the only thing that's impressive. Johnson also has accumulated a 3.3 GPA throughout his high school career.

According to senior Trey Boyd, Johnson is great on the field and in the locker room, providing a strong presence for the team and being a great junior leader.

"Having such a talented running back is amazing, we can really rely on him to make big plays for our offense," Boyd said.

In Johnson's sophomore season, he amassed exactly 1,200 yards and scored 17 touchdowns. This season, he has managed to score seven touchdowns in just two games against CBC and Dekalb alone.

"I'm glad he's on our side," coach Matt Martin said in an interview with The Intelligencer.

Johnson will continue his junior campaign to build his resume and hopefully attract more colleges. His goals for himself this season are to accumulate 2,000 rushing yards and score 30 touchdowns. While Johnson has his individual goals set, there are still bigger things he'd wish to accomplish.

"As a team, the first goal is to make it to the playoffs," he said. "Then have a good run and make it to the state championship game."

EHS ATHLETES FUNDRAISE TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS, CAUSES

STICK 'EM UP FOR HUNGER

The girls field hockey team set up a stand to collect canned goods at their annual "Stick Up For Hunger" game. *Photo by Brooke Shwalb*

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

Edwardsville athletic teams not only dedicate many hours each week toward improving and representing the school through playing their sports, but many of these teams also use their platform to provide support for local people in need or to advocate for causes.

The EHS girls volleyball team supports the fight against breast cancer. It holds an annual "Volley for the Cure" fundraiser, according to Junior Varsity Coach Camilla Eberlin.

"We raise money and we donate all the profits from our shirts, the attendance at the game and any other donations we get to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation," Eberlin said.

This tradition began 12 years ago. Coach Eberlin said that the cause was significant to the team and former varsity coach Jamie Parker when they chose to support it.

"We have had a lot of girls be affected by [breast cancer]," Eberlin said. "My mom is actually a survivor, and coach Parker had an aunt who was a survivor."

The girls invite breast cancer survivors and those still fighting the disease to the game, where they recognize them for their strength.

They are not the only athletic team holding a fundraiser for a specific cause. The EHS football team holds an Orange and Black Scrimmage that raises money for the Glen Ed Pantry, according to junior Ryan Hampton.

Senior Joshua Klein said admissions to the game are either payments or canned goods and all of the proceeds are given to the Glen Ed Pantry.

Klein said the coaches "try to make sure there is a very large turnout every year" to support the Glen Ed Pantry as much as possible.

The EHS Field Hockey team has organized the "Stick Up for Hunger" fundraiser for the last six years. The girls also collect donations of canned food items and sell T-shirts to raise money for the Glen Ed Pantry, according to head coach Jaimee Phegley.

"[Former head coach] Julia Genteman started the event by collecting canned goods and selling T-shirts. Our first year, we sold about 400 shirts," coach Phegley said. "This is year six and we have sold 789 so far, quite an increase in the last six years."

Coach Phegley said the event was inspired by a personal event in Genteman's life. When she was younger, she saw a classmate receiving items at the food pantry and had no idea that her family needed help in that way.

"It made her realize that there are a lot of people who need help. Some people publicly need it and some people silently need it," coach Phegley said.

The team also includes their opponent in the fundraiser on the night of their annual "Stick Up for Hunger" game.

"Something that is really cool is that the other team often brings canned goods with them and donates them to the fundraiser," coach Phegley said. "We join together for a night to collect goods and food for the community pantry."

Senior Tessa Bunselmeyer said the team takes the timing of the fundraiser into account.

"This is an important time of year for the Glen Ed Food Pantry because many families use it to have Thanksgiving Dinner," she said. "It feels good to give back and also to support our team."

Involving activism in athletics is beneficial to the community as well as the athletes, according to coach Phegley.

"The fundraiser provided the team with a reality check," she said. "There is hunger in our community, whether we see it or not."

Sophomore libero Emma Garner (left) and senior outside hitter Maddie Isringhausen (right) defend during the annual "Volley for the Cure" game on Oct. 16.
Photo by Lauren McGarr

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SERVES ANOTHER YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT

Sophomore Gabby Saye spikes the ball versus Alton on Sept. 9.
photo by *Mason Kane*

by Taylor Meek, Staff Writer

The EHS girls volleyball team anticipated a better season than the last.

"We are off to a much better start than last year and with how hard we've been working it's really paying off," senior Maddie Isringhausen said. "Last year was a year of growth for us, I think."

Prior to this year, the team's national rank was 848 and its state rank was 36, according to MaxPreps. This year its national rank is 296 and its state rank is 13.

The team lost six seniors two years ago and one the following year.

"...You have new kids stepping into new roles," head coach Lisa Orlet told the Intelligencer in 2018. "I told them when they're seniors leaving and taking that leadership, I hope they are chomping at the bit for the opportunity."

The players made the most out of their new situation.

"The six seniors made a drastic change, but we made it work," junior middle blocker Storm Suhre said. "... Overall we played our best and formed the team we are today.

"This year we only lost one senior so things haven't changed much, but we also added a couple people to our team, and instead of running a 5'1, we run a 6'2 now with two setters."

Junior outside hitter and team captain Alexa Harris is optimistic.

"I think the rest of the season will go pretty well, and we have set the expectations pretty high," Harris said. "In the previous season we were younger with less experience. This year everybody's volleyball IQ has increased."

The team started the season off with 14 wins as of Sept. 24.

> "LAST YEAR WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR US, I THINK."

According to MaxPreps' statistics, the volleyball team has only lost two games so far this season.

The players have been able to learn to increase efficiency in performance from last year to present day, including practices during summer break.

"Since last season there is a lot more trust and confidence in each other resulting in a stronger and more balanced attack on our end," senior right side hitter Lexi Curtis said.

EHS faced off against Belleville Sept. 24, winning 2-1.

"We started off slow, but we all wanted to win, so together, as a team, we put up a great fight, had really good energy and pulled out another conference win," Isringhausen said.

Based on previous games this season, the players discovered what skills are still in need of enhancement.

Harris thinks the team played well at their winning game against East St. Louis on Sept. 19, but could improve on working hard the entire game.

One of the team's main obstacles could be communication, according to Suhre.

"We probably need to work more with passing and connecting with setters and hitters hitting their shots," Suhre said.

Although Suhre is determined for her team to improve, she has a positive attitude about this season.

"This year we have tons of talent and when we put it together we play with confidence," Suhre said.

The volleyball team holds a discussion during the game versus Alton on Sept 9.
photo by Mason Kane

Seniors!

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CULTURE

LOCAL MEXICAN RESTAURANTS OFFER VEGETARIAN OPTIONS WORTH YOUR MONEY

Look no further than Edwardsville for quality vegetarian burritos like these.
Photo courtesy of AP Images

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Editor in Chief

When I decided to become a vegetarian almost three years ago, one thing that I hesitated about was my fear that I'd never again eat quality Mexican food.

However, I quickly realized that that was a misconception — it's possible to find mouthwatering vegetarian Mexican dishes right here in Edwardsville. It's entirely easy, even without chorizo.

El Maguey

Nestled on the edge of Edwardsville's historic Montclaire neighborhood, this local favorite embraces vegetarians with a menu just for us.

> "I FEEL A CERTAIN TYPE OF ELATION EVERY TIME I SEE THE SERVER APPROACHING..."

It includes dishes like a burrito stuffed with sautéed verduras and topped with melted white queso, sizzling fajitas and my personal favorite, the mushroom quesadilla.

My family dines at El Maguey often, and I feel a certain type of elation every time I see the server approaching my table with this culinary masterpiece. The melty queso asadero, packed with a plethora of tangy mushrooms and just the right amount of spice, perfectly satisfies me. Who says beans are the only viable vegetarian protein?

I would gladly pay more than the $8.75 that El Maguey charges for it — it's just that good.

La Fonda

Just finished your early-afternoon shopping at Target? Pay La Fonda a visit for lunch.

La Fonda, like El Maguey, provides a special vegetarian menu. Although it offers plenty of options, I'm especially a fan of its taco salad.

The flavors it encases seep into the crispy flour tortilla that serves as a bowl for the dish. Inside, grilled bell peppers, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and zucchini mingle perfectly with mild spices, a thin white queso sauce, tangy sour cream and fresh, crispy romaine lettuce.

This classic Mexican dish, which is usually con carne, turned vegetarian delights my tastebuds and satisfies my cravings for all things mildly spicy — it's definitely worth $7.99.

Catrina's

While I frequent the two aforementioned restaurants, and I usually avoid stepping out of my comfort zone, my family convinced me to try something new one Sunday, and we strolled into Catrina's, located just off Illinois Route 159.

As soon as I mentioned to my server that I wanted to ensure that my dish excluded meat, he immediately offered me a vegan menu. While I do not eat an entirely plant-based diet, that gesture reassured me that I wouldn't have to inspect my food for hidden meat, which is a precaution I normally take at restaurants.

After carefully inspecting the menu, I ordered the crispy mushroom quesadilla, wondering what about it, exactly, would be crispy. I was in for a treat — and it was only $5.

> "IT'S A GOOD THING THAT SUNDAY IS MY CHEAT DAY."

The crunch came from a delicious house-made quesadilla shell. The shell was stuffed with sautéed mushrooms, chunky Chihuaha cheese and barely-spicy guajillo peppers, fried and then drizzled with zesty salsa verde and queso fresco.

It's a good thing that Sunday is my cheat day. I don't even want to know how many calories were in that exquisite entrée. Whatever the amount was, it was definitely worth it.

'TALL GIRL'... WELL KINDA: A LOOK AT NETFLIX'S NEW TEEN COMEDY

by Sydney Hershberger, Staff Writer

We've seen a big change in the last few years in how minorities are shown in the media. Representation as a whole seems to be getting better, from movies starring an entirely Asian cast to award winning TV shows about transgender women. We really have come a long way in the last couple of years.

It is with this notion that Netflix tackles the issue of a truly discriminated demographic: tall pretty blonde girls,

Wait. What?

That's right, Netflix's newest heartwarming teen movie "Tall Girl" is just about as thoughtful as you'd think.

The movie opens with our main character, Jodi, studying in the library with a guy who is clearly interested in her. Eventually he goes to make his move, but when Jodi stands up, showing how massively tall she is, he backs off, nervously chuckling while saying "never mind". We then get an opening monologue from Jodi, explaining her situation.

As she walks through the hallways we get to see groups of passing boys saying "How's the weather up there?" and laughing afterwards. Discouraged, Jodi finally lets us in on her struggle, "16-years-old, 6 foot 1… and a half..."

This is the part that irks me the most about this movie. We are supposed to be learning about the struggles of this incredibly tall girl, a girl so tall that no one in the entire school, not even the boys, are taller. But in reality she's really not that tall.

I know freshmen who simply hit their growth spurt early who are taller than that by a few inches. Yet throughout the whole movie they make her look like this 9 foot tall beast.

All of the male actors that were casted are shorter than the average sophomore (about 5 foot 10 inches according to Medical News Today) and all the props used in each scene are lowered to the ground. Every desk is shortened and every door frame is too low to the ground to be believable. Her close ups are shot from below, making her look a lot taller than she really is.

When I heard about a movie called "Tall Girl," I expected the main character to actually be tall. Sure, 6 feet tall is above average, but it's not freakishly out of the ordinary. Even if it were, I have never once in my time in high school heard of a girl being made fun of for being tall.

Even the way she is bullied is completely unrealistic to actual teenagers, which is another big problem that a lot of teen movies face. The writers haven't been teenagers for quite a while, therefore they don't really know what teens act like anymore.

For example, at one point in the movie Jodi gets a call from two popular kids at the school in which one pretends to be a student she has a crush on. Jodi, of course, falls for it and the two laugh and say "face it Jodi, you're the tall girl."

Yes, that is an exact quote from the movie.

While there are some scenarios that I can see happening, such as the main love interest boasting about how obsessed Jodi is with him, other scenes are simply unrealistic. Most bullying nowadays occurs over text, and if it does happen face to face it is a lot more intense than "nice sweatpants, sasquatch."

It's hard to sympathize with the character when you feel like what she's going through is a joke. Most of the realistic bullying she goes through doesn't even have to do with her height; instead it has to do with the main love interest being a jerk.

Overall the film is just impossible to take seriously. None of what the girl goes through is relatable, or even believable. "Tall Girl" tackles the serious issue of bullying and discrimination and turns it into a joke.

Here's the kind of premise I would have preferred:

Jodi is a 7-foot-8-inch tall sophomore who is constantly battling her immune system's inability to keep up with her height. She is always sick and knows that her life expectancy is much lower than the average person.

I would have actually preferred another "sick-flick" about the medical problems relating to being tall rather than how tall blonde girls are oppressed.

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"Tall Girl" star Ava Mitchelle poses on the red carpet.
Photo courtesy of AP Images

From left to right: Nico, Nirvana and Mitchell in various poses.
Photos Courtesy of AP Images

MUSICAL MASTERPIECES THAT DEFINED, DOMINATED THEIR DECADES

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

Growing up in the 2000s, our generation missed out on a host of albums that have influenced artists throughout the years and continue to impact music today. While we will never be able to see these rock legends in concert, we do have the ability to rewind time by listening to the music they created.

1. The Velvet Underground and Nico – The Velvet Underground & Nico (1967)

You may recognize the album cover. Andy Warhol not only produced the album, but designed the iconic cover art of a yellow banana on a plain white background. The album has become the face of art and experimental rock.

While the album has been iconic since the '80s, it was not an initial hit. Classic Rock Review regarded it as "perhaps the album with the single biggest gap between initial commercial success and ultimate historical relevance." It was not until the '80s that The Velvet Underground was appreciated as a critical band of their time, as their experimental rock style was not for the mainstream rock listeners of the '60s.

The album must have been overwhelming at the time as it seamlessly melds punk, new wave, art, lo-fi pop and experimental sound effects within the rock genre.

Nico, a German singer, joins the band's lead singer and guitarist Lou Reed in one of the best tracks of the album, "I'll Be Your Mirror." It is an innocent and simple love song about seeing yourself as "the beauty you are." The song lacks any evidence of cynicism, which is quite uncommon for Reed.

But it is the last track on the album, "European Son," that emphasizes the Velvet Underground's kooky, experimental and punk rock style as it is a nearly eight-minute song including wild sound effects and seemingly endless guitar riffs.

The album is an irreplaceable part of music history and is credited as one of the best albums of all time by Rolling Stone.

2. Nirvana – Nevermind (1991)

Released in 1991, "Nevermind" single-handedly brought alternative rock and modern punk to the mainstream charts, according to Rolling Stone. To this day, it is difficult to come across any grown person who does not recognize the first track on the album, "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

The indie rock album includes four of the band's most celebrated songs, all of which hit the mainstream charts. Those songs include the previously mentioned "Smells Like Teen Spirit," in addition to "Lithium," "In Bloom" and "Come As You Are."

Kurt Cobain, lead singer and guitarist of Nirvana, opens up about his struggles with mental health throughout the album. On the track "Lithium," Cobain accounts the emotional extremes and loneliness suffered by many victims of depression. "Nevermind" fuses punk and hard rock with captivating and raw lyrics that prompt self-reflection. It is unparalleled in its ability to link grunge rock with traditionally mainstream listeners.

The album was revolutionary because it brought attention to music that had not been seen by a broad audience and paved the way for other alternative rock bands such as The White Stripes and Radiohead.

3. Joni Mitchell – Blue (1971)

"Blue" was released in 1971 and has arguably been unmatched as one of the most insightful and raw acoustic folk albums of all time.

In today's world of songs with an excessive amount of computer generated noise, it is refreshing to hear an album consisting of an acoustic guitar, piano and Mitchell's delicate and original voice. While it is mainly a folk album, it is complemented by elements of jazz and pop as well.

The album is so transcendent partly because it discusses the timeless feelings and emotions of heartache. It explores love, hurt, loneliness and depression. The word, or more so feeling, "blue" appears throughout the album. Mitchell is entirely emotionally transparent. Anyone who has dealt with heartbreak or a lack thereof is bound to connect with it.

The well-known track "California" explores the mixed emotions of growing up in a world transitioning into the ideals of the new generation, which is more relevant than ever. "They won't give peace a chance/That was just a dream some of us had," she sang about the generation preceding her.

AV Club Music wrote it best saying, "she did it all, and did it better than just about anyone who had ever come before or since. She was and is the rarest of creatures: an original."

LILLY SINGH: YOUTUBER TURNS LATE-NIGHT TALK SHOW PERSONAL

by Cassi Reaka, Staff Writer

Late-night television gained a new face Sept. 16 when "A Little Late with Lilly Singh" made its debut on NBC. Lilly Singh, the show's host, is bringing a new perspective to late night television–and she knows it.

Singh, 31, is the first bisexual woman of color to host a late-night show on a major television network, according to The Guardian. She is also the youngest late-night host on a major American television network. Singh gained popularity on YouTube with her channel, "IISuperwomanII," which now boasts almost 15 million subscribers, and is the first Youtuber to obtain a late-night hosting position.

Switching from the internet to late-night TV is obviously a big change, so an adjustment period will be necessary for the new host. Singh has the engaging personality and sense of humor that will make her a successful host once she settles into her role.

The premier opened with a rap that, although slightly cringy, did a nice job introducing the audience to Singh's values and ideals, revealing her intentions for the show and addressing the obvious differences between her and other late night hosts. She mentions her diverse writers room, her Canadian roots, her Indian parents, her bisexuality and that unlike other late-night hosts, she is not a white male named Jimmy.

"It's time to switch it up in here 'cause now a lady runs the show," Singh raps. "I'm about to lead the way for y'all with my pedicured toes… This the new standard so take notes Hollywood."

Singh intends to create a "new standard" by sharing her perspective as a bisexual woman of color. She plans to host guests who will share their own unique perspectives, with a large majority of them being female. Singh has hosted guests such as Mindy Kaling, Tracee Ellis Ross, Jessica Alba, Anna Farris and Chelsea Handler. During her interviews, Singh discusses the typical topics such as her guests' careers and newest projects but also more candid topics such as favorite television shows and ex-boyfriends. These subjects allow for the interviews to feel more personal, as though you are just listening in to a normal conversation between two people.

> "IT'S TIME TO SWITCH IT UP IN HERE 'CAUSE NOW A LADY RUNS THE SHOW."

Singh's interviews, although engaging, can sometimes become a little too focused on the host instead of the guest. In the very first episode, Singh asked Kaling how she thought Singh was doing as a host.

In her interview with Ross, Singh showed the audience a comedic video that Ross had made in the shower reviewing her hair care line, Pattern. The video was not made to be funny, but with almost no context the videos were quite amusing.

Immediately following the video, Singh showed another that she had made mimicking Ross of herself in the shower shouting, "Sparta!" Singh's video was met with awkward silence and uncomfortable laughter from the audience. Singh should try to keep the conversation focused on the guest as long as the interview is happening.

Although many of the jokes on the show are legitimately funny, such as Rainn Wilson's "white noise machine" featuring sounds such as "Birkenstock's walking across the floor of an RIA to buy a Patagonia jacket" and "brunch at a farm to table restaurant in a quaint neighborhood in Brooklyn," some of Singh's reactions can seem a bit forced and ingenuine.

Most of these reactions would seem more natural if Singh would relax a bit. Almost every time she talks it seems as though she is yelling and trying to keep the energy of the show up using the sheer force of volume. However, Singh's personality and drollness are enough to keep the audience engaged.

With an entertaining and likable host, reputable and interesting guests and a big network airing it, "A Little Late with Lilly Singh" has the potential to become a great show. Given time for the show to properly establish itself and for Singh to become comfortable in her position as host, the show will surely become a staple of late-night television.

Lily Singh poses in front of her show's network's logo in New York on May 13 ahead of her show's debut.
Photo Courtesy of AP Images

TRUMP'S ENERGY PLAN IS SHORT-SIGHTED

NO FOSSIL
FUEL MONEY
SUNRISE MOVEMENT
JOBS
A LIVABLE FUTURE

Protesters rally against fossil fuels.
photo courtesy of AP Images

by Jack Pifer, Staff writer

Simply put, Donald Trump's stance on clean energy is ridiculous. Regardless of whether one believes in climate change, it is illogical not to support the movement toward clean and renewable energy.

In essence, Trump seems to disregard the fact that limited resources are a major problem. They are called nonrenewable for a reason. The fossil fuels that we currently use are a finite source of energy and will run out. Countless studies show that within our lifetimes it is quite possible that they will be depleted. Among those is a study by British Petroleum, one of the world's largest oil and gas companies.

Those who support the Green New Deal are arguing for 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050. This seems a little far-fetched considering the amount of infrastructure that would be required to reach that point. The change to cleaner energy will have to come over time, but there is no reason we cannot begin the process now.

One of Trump's principal arguments against renewable energy sources like solar and wind is that they are too expensive and cannot survive without subsidies, a form of government aid. These views are outdated and evidence from other countries shows that this is not true.

Bloomberg reports that Spain has cut nearly all subsidies for renewable energy. Yet the prices continue to drop and the industry continues to grow because solar is now the cheapest way to generate electricity in Spain.

It wasn't long ago when sustainable renewable energy was too expensive to even be considered a viable option. However, since 2010 costs for energy generated by wind power have dropped 50 percent and solar energy costs have dropped 85 percent, according to Bloomberg.

"THEY ARE CALLED NONRENEWABLE FOR A REASON."

"That makes them cheaper than new coal and gas plants in two-thirds of the world," according to BloombergNEF.

After this point Trump's opposition to funding green energy takes form in the shallow argument that solar and wind power aren't available around the clock and cannot provide constant energy like coal and natural gas. That is only a problem until we have cheap enough batteries or alternative methods to store that energy.

Many ways exist to circumvent this issue: one method is to use a hybrid approach by combining nonrenewable and renewable resources while phasing in more renewable resources as technology continues to improve.

Another similar approach to take would be an alternative use for the money from the subsidies that are no longer needed to provide for the construction and upkeep of wind and solar power companies. Instead use the money for research into better batteries and energy storage methods or as incentive for infrastructure development.

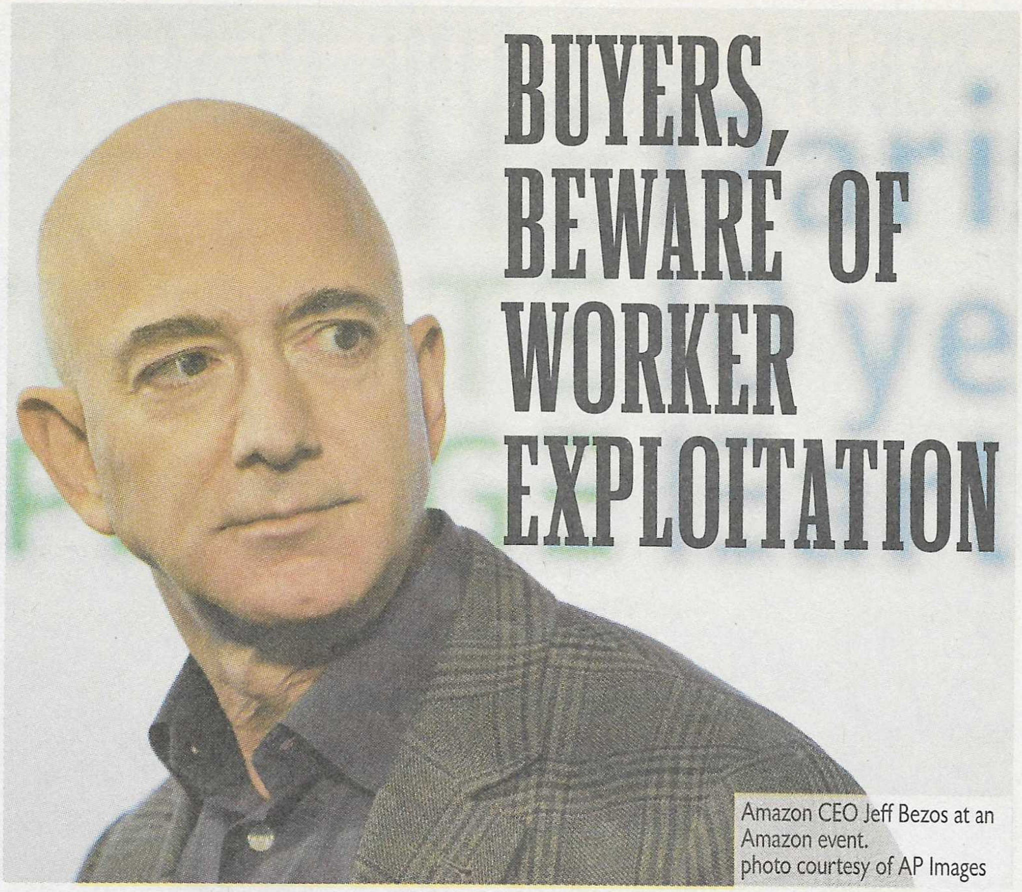
If the price of solar and wind power can go from not even being in the same ballpark as coal to cheaper than coal in less than 10 years, I am confident that research into batteries and other ways of storing energy would yield highly positive results.

In the meantime our nonrenewable resources will have to stick around at least until we build an infrastructure with the ability to handle green alternatives. But Trump's refusal to properly address a solution to our diminishing resources is naive.

The path to cleaner and cheaper energy, like any project, will require start-up capital. However, countries around the world have shown that, not only is the transition to renewable energy financially enticing, but it also comes with the benefit of being environmentally friendly. Trump is doing a disservice to the United States with his personal agenda against cleaner and greener energy.

BUYERS, BEWARE OF WORKER EXPLOITATION

by Lauren Johnson, Views Editor



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos at an Amazon event.
photo courtesy of AP Images

After a long day at school, there may be nothing like being welcomed home by a lovely little Amazon package on your front doorstep. You've been waiting an entire two days for its arrival. "Man, it's good to have Prime," you may think to yourself. But do you ever think about how it was delivered so quickly?

If you haven't been living under a rock for the past few years, you have probably heard rumors as to how the typical Amazon warehouse has earned its reputable hustle.

You may have heard that employees are monitored by cameras or smartwatches. Some say they aren't allowed to sit and that they are sometimes denied bathroom breaks.

Unfortunately, there is some validity in these statements, and Amazon warehouse associates around the world can attest to this. So I suggest that you hold off on ordering that enticing War of 1812 reenactment costume–at least until I'm finished. That's right, Mr. Baker, I'm talking to you.

In November 2017, a reporter from The Daily Mirror, Alan Selby, went undercover as an Amazon warehouse associate in Essex, England. After five grueling weeks of processing what seemed to be "a never-ending stream of orders," Selby published his account of the conditions at the warehouse.

"I found staff asleep on their feet, exhausted from toiling for up to 55 hours a week."

From the second an employee steps in the door to the time they leave, the pressure is on to be as efficient as humanly possible. Cameras monitor the employees like hawks and a screen above each workstation tracks every item that an employee lays their hands on.

Selby, who concluded his probe on Black Friday, said his original processing quota was 120 items an hour. That's one item per 30 seconds, give or take. After his final shift, Selby said the quota was expected to increase to two the upcoming holiday season. The staff turnover rate at the Essex warehouse is remarkably high; employees who fail to meet their hourly quota will be eventually dismissed, according to Selby.

"Those who could not keep up with the punishing targets faced the sack and some who buckled under the strain had to be attended by ambulance crews," he reported.

Some of Selby's colleagues came to him with horror stories of their own.

"Everybody suffers here. I pulled my hamstring but I just had to carry on. My friend spent two days off after she damaged her knee ligaments," one colleague reported.

I can only imagine what my knees would feel like after walking 10 miles a day...at the minimum.

Fresh complaints about the position's setbacks can also be found on Indeed.com. The following is a post from a current warehouse associate in Staten Island, N.Y., from September 2019; "(The) job was very stressful (at) times; you would see employees going to the restroom to cry. Managers scream at you for not moving fast enough. (They) put you down saying you're basically not worth it. If you don't move at the pace of time, they can terminate you."

Life isn't necessarily easy as a manager, either. In another Indeed.com review from September, an area warehouse manager in Lewisberry, Penn., gives aspiring managers an idea of what to expect from the job.

"...Associates work 10-hour shifts, but managers should expect to be there at least 12 hours a day if not 14 during normal season. During peak season, the work week for managers is more than 70 hours a week. Absolutely terrible for work-life balance or impossible for anyone with a family."

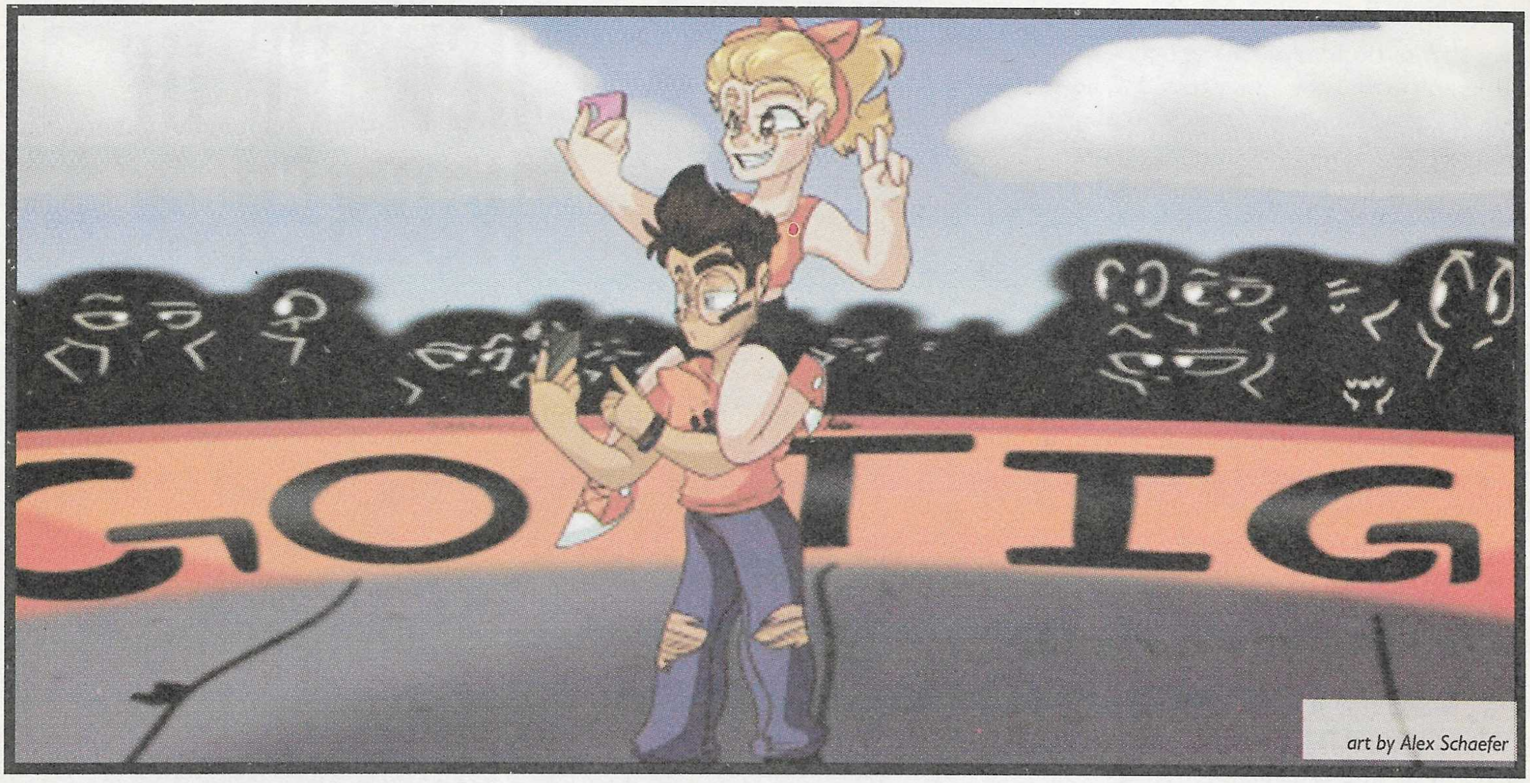
Though the shifts and working conditions vary from Amazon warehouse to warehouse, it's clear that Amazon has some work to do.

Amazon actually has responded to complaints among its employees–but in a way that completely dances around the real issue. Instead of addressing safety concerns, it raised the wage of warehouse associates to $15 an hour. How gracious of them!

With as much money as his majesty Jeff Bezos is making in a single day, there's no reason why Amazon cannot hire more staff to lighten the load of its current employees.

Maybe they can successfully deliver package to millions of people, but now it's time for us to demand that Amazon deliver safe, standardized working conditions for its employees.

SENIORS, IT'S TIME TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE



art by Alex Schaefer

by Ryan Stewart, Co-Editor-in-Chief

With a quarter of our senior year being over, and our "high school careers" a short semester-and-a-half away from being over, I have some things to get off my chest. Out comes the dirty laundry and whatever other clichés you want, because I'm airing it all out.

In the theme of clichés, first things first: stop the PDA. This complaint has been made time and time again, but somehow PDA at EHS is still a problem. Some people get handsier in the halls than at homecoming in the dance circle, and that's saying something.

Listen, we're young and love each other. It'll last forever, and physical affection, in whatever school-appropriate form it always takes, is a good way to show that person you love that you care for them.

But honestly, no one wants to see you practicing French in the hallway. And while yes, technically PDA is an all-class (or rather, no class) issue, the vast majority of it always seems to come from the class with vision.

The class of 2020 is one I am actually happy to be a part of, even if it may not seem that way above. The only problem is, PDA isn't our only problem.

Not the least of which is —pause for dramatic (emphasis on dramatic) effect— the senior group chat.

To be fair, it has gotten better recently and most of the time it's used to announce club meetings and the like. But every now and then, a toxic comment does manage to slip its way in.

Little digs at someone or a group over mainly political alignment aren't acceptable. No matter how you feel about how this country should be run, common respect should be held for one's peers in that type of situation.

> "BUT A FORUM WHICH GOES DIRECTLY TO ALMOST THE ENTIRE SENIOR CLASS? DECORUM WILL GET YOU A LONG WAY."

But a forum which goes directly to almost the entire senior class? Decorum will get you a long way.

In a different vein, we need to have a talk about class spirit. There's no real conventions for how to handle it, and everyone is either super into our class and proud to be chanting those Tiger war cries, or just wants to graduate and move on with a close group of people at the most.

Whenever the topic comes up, people fiercely speak their piece and lines in the sand get drawn real quick.

Counter offer: we're all living our own lives and if people want to get hyped about it, cool. If they couldn't care less and just want to remember high school as a time with friends instead of a school-wide-bond, also cool.

As we all grow and go off into adulthood, we really should work on getting less combative and more mindful of other people, whether that be in keeping our private experiences to ourselves, being decent to each other or just letting people on different wavelengths be on different wavelengths.

Unless it's like you know, the really important stuff. Or PDA, like really how hard is it to just not?

ASK EHS

"I'm definitely excited to march in the Halloween parade; I've heard it's a lot of fun."
-freshman Lilli Armstrong

"Hot chocolate and jackets."
-junior Elena Brown

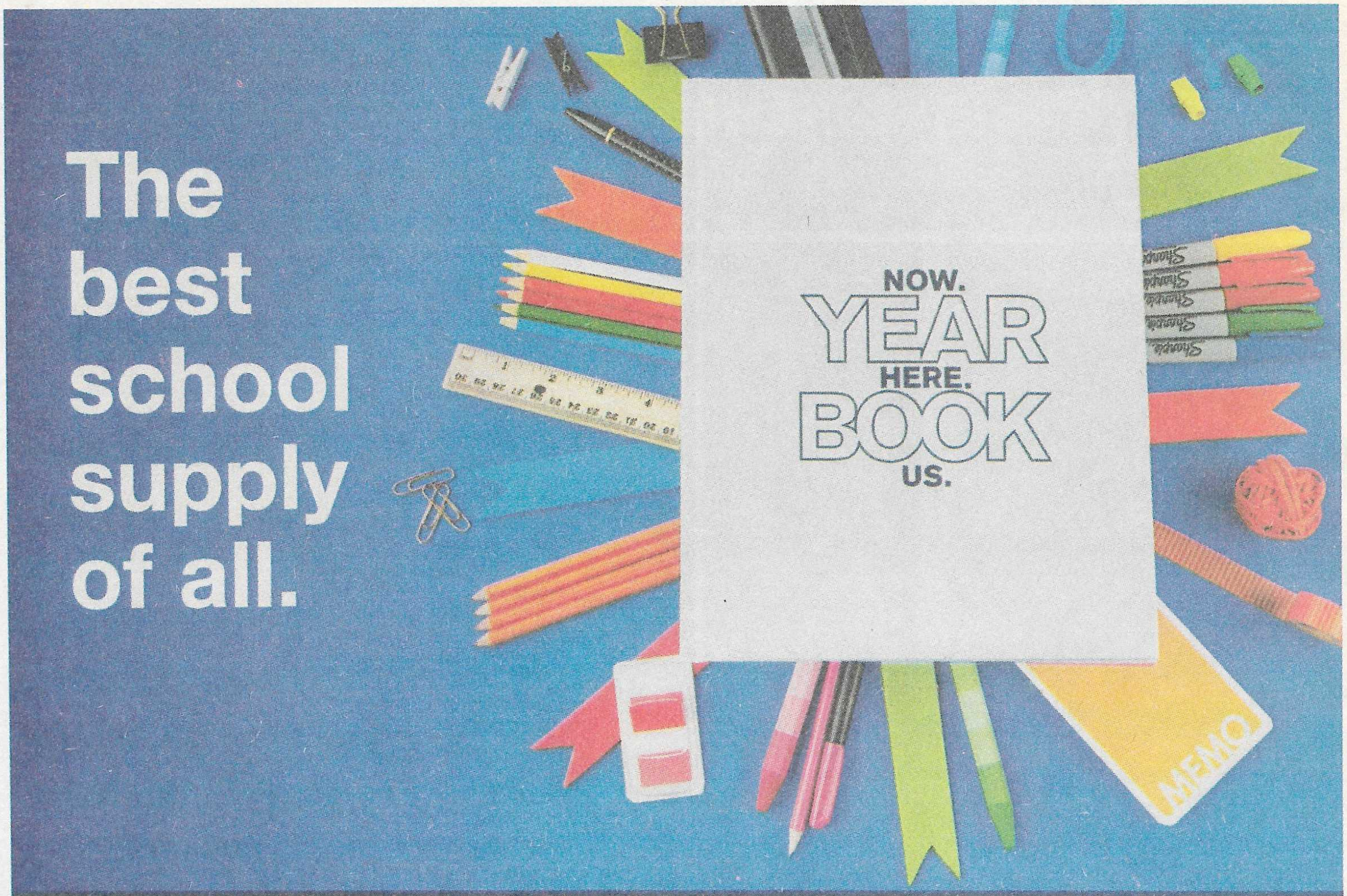
"Either jack-o'-lantern shaped pretzels or summoning the dead. We'll see how pumpkin-spicy we're feeling."
-senior Gywnn Frisbie-Firsching

"My friends and I will be dressing up as the characters from 'Total Drama Island,' so I'm stoked about that."
-senior Nura Freese

"Getting to binge-watch slasher movies while eating Halloween candy bought in bulk."
-freshman Caidyn Crouch

"Eating Halloween candy in general is always fun."
-freshman Frankie Bradley

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR THIS HALLOWEEN SEASON?



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